Friends Bulletin

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETINGS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Where Is a Rainbow?

What Is a Friend?

For those who attend, Pacific Yearly Meeting can be a homecoming of the spirit. Our young people have expressed their desire to explore Quaker culture as an adventure of the human spirit. They wish to come to understand Friends' tradition as the condensed originality of a people. We don't just happen to be Friends, we are intentionally Friends. We need to become more aware of the imaginative energies of all us ordinary people to counteract the world's misplaced trust in "experts." Only by orchestrating our simple talents can we create the life-giving community "held together firmly at the center and differing widely at the circumference."

The quality of our experiences is the heart of the renewal, yet Friends possess also many forms of awareness of the human spirit: in quiet worship and meditation, in song and instrumental music, in woodwork and handiwork, in sports and recreation, in drama, poetry, dialogue and interact groups. It is not the "method" in which we worship that counts so much as the insight-vision-energy called forth and released into action by the imaginative power of awareness.

There is no wonder drug to cure our disease of spiritual degeneration; no vitamin pill with which to dose our children into spiritual health. It is the persuasion of our lives, the tapping of our emotional resources to devise ways to apply love and fellowship that will make a difference at Pacific Yearly Meeting. Enthusiasm is a reality principle. Imagination in a full variety of experiences will compose the full-life rainbow of promises arching over our sodden world. Our diet of reason, fact, progress, security and proof are all of the same monotone among the spectrum of colors from which we can draw. Logical arrangement can be enriched and deepened in play; energy can be released in a re-patterning of the familiar. Speculation can be fruitful, the intellect can be coaxed into originality; even the occasional seer can be known.

This discipline of exploring the power within the mind to transform in astonishing ways the reality in which we reside is part of the fascination improvisational drama has for our young people. There will be more workshops this year at PYM in improvisational drama: one emphasizing physically active techniques, another emphasizing verbal techniques and another focusing on developing leadership—all held in the afternoons and late evenings when all interested can attend.

Dialogue has become another fine art among Friends, one needing to be extended at Yearly Meeting into searching conversations on important issues requiring understanding. The changing format of the plenary sessions may provide for a deepening of the dialogue so that the basic business of the Yearly Meeting can become a form of prayer. Those for whom poetry and literature are supreme symbols of the spirit should come prepared to help us all feel our way through surface experiences into the dimension of life where events become speaking presences. If the word symbol is sacrament for some, the world of nature is for others sacred. Our young people have asked for techniques in survival, for balancing of bodies and budgets. Everything can be holy.

All of these ways of worshipping together are important gestures. For most of us gestures must be clothed in thought, and for many the style is most important. Junior Friends want to know what it means to be a Friend. Who will instruct them? Marcel Marceau wrote ". . . when the gesture is sustained by the inspiration of thought, the sensitive response he induces is the echo of his soul and the gesture becomes silent inner song . . . and this gesture seems to be invested with a poetic halo." Where is a rainbow? What is a Friend? In this spirit join us in the many gestures by which we extend worship at Pacific Yearly Meeting.

MARIAN SANDERS
Education Coordinator

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Students Needed

John Woolman School was founded in 1962 to give Young Friends on the West Coast an opportunity to attend a Friends school nearer than the mid-west. Its aim was also to provide a place where Quaker beliefs and practices could be part of the educational process, a place where Young Friends could find support and understanding in developing their Quaker ideals. To fulfill these aims two things were needed: Friends on the staff and Friends in the student body.

Those Friends responsible for recruiting and appointing staff have worked hard to find qualified teachers who are Friends or who share Friends' positions on important issues. We now have such a staff. Our full attention now moves to the work of increasing the Quaker student enrollment–it is now 20% of the student body.

Many Friends families feel they cannot afford to send their children to a Friends school. But tuition at John Woolman is related to the family's ability to pay. Don't give up the thought of attending John Woolman without telling us of your interest in doing so. There are ways in which the school can help make this possible. Some Meetings are establishing scholarship funds to help Young Friends attend Quaker schools.

In past years, John Woolman has been a school covering the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. This year we are accepting applications from mature and academically strong students who will be entering the 9th grade. Let us hear from you if you are interested!

MARY JORGENSEN
John Woolman Association

Memorial

BENJAMIN E. ROCKWELL–Benjamin E. Rockwell, a member of New York Yearly Meeting, and a sojourning member of the Santa Barbara Meeting, died May 11, 1973 after an illness of several months. Ben was nearing his 96th birthday, having been born in Rome, New York on June 5, 1877. He was a resident of Santa Barbara for the past 15 years where his sister, Amelia Rockwell lives. Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting will recall his attendance at Yearly and Quarterly Meetings until the past few years. Failing sight had necessitated his giving up the adult education classes in art which he had so much enjoyed.

Ben's faithful attendance at Meetings for Business as well as for Worship was part of Santa Barbara Meeting's image. A memorial Meeting for Worship was held May 27 in Santa Barbara. Besides his sister, two brothers survive–Edwin, of Dulzura, California, and Reuben, of Fairhope, Alabama. Ben will be lovingly remembered.

PYM Interest Groups

Three Pacific Yearly Meeting Committees—Ministry and Oversight, Executive, and Agenda Review—have considered carefully the structuring of Interest Groups and their function within Yearly Meeting. It seems clear that the purpose of Interest Groups is to educate ourselves in the concerns of our Religious Society. We are clarifying procedures for requesting Interest Groups in an attempt not only to educate ourselves but also to experience this education within the good order of Friends. Therefore, the following guidelines have been approved:

1) The Agenda Review Committee should review all Interest Group requests which must be submitted at the latest by the evening of the first day of Yearly Meeting which this year will be Monday, July 30. Early requests will insure more adequate allocations of space and equipment and are encouraged. Any requests received after the July 30 date will be scheduled at other times than the Interest Groups, after 9:30 p.m. or at 6:45 a.m., the only open unscheduled time remaining. Friends will be informed of these additional meetings by announcements in the daily bulletin, by notices posted on the bulletin boards, and by announcements from the Clerks' table.

2) There shall be no closed Interest Group meetings. Groups desiring closed meetings may meet at other times and places, making arrangements through the Assistant Clerk and Pegge Lacey who will allot meeting space.

3) Requests for Interest Groups should come from Monthly Meetings, Regional Meetings, Yearly Meeting Committee (including Executive and Representative Committees), or action minutes of Yearly Meeting. Individuals should work through these designated Meetings or Committees to make Interest Group requests.

4) Each request for an Interest Group should include the name of a Friend willing to be the convenor of the group and this information:

Subject matter

Name of Meeting or Committee making the request

Specific requests for space and equipment (tables, chairs, size of room, A-V needs, etc.)

Number of days group will meet

Telephone number and address of the Friend making the request.

5) In order to educate more effectively each Interest Group will be asked to prepare a half page minute summarizing its discussions. These minutes will be included with the minutes of PYM sessions as an appendix to be sent to all Monthly Meetings. Such summaries may also appear in the Bulletin.

All Interest Group requests should be mailed before July 25, 1973, to the Assistant Clerk, Shirley Tweed, John Woolman School, 12585 Jones Bar Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. Late requests will be received by Shirley at St. Mary's on Committee Day, July 29, or July 30.

SHIRLEY TWEED
Clerk, Agenda Review Committee

Queries on Organized Death

At its Monthly Meeting in January, after the savage Christmas season bombing of the Hanoi region, University Friends drew up the following list of queries. Advent of the cease-fire may have modified the motivation for this statement, but Friends felt it should be kept strongly in mind:

—Am I steadily seeking ways to deepen my religious commitment by relating it to my social and political concerns? Does one nurture the other in steady waves of interrelation in my present life? Where is it that the military way of thinking is at odds with Friends insights into the nature of man? What am I doing to keep myself informed about and oppose the growth in influence of the military establishment in this country?

—Am I in unwitting ways supporting the current war by buying the products of companies contributing to the war effort? Am I lending monetary support by investing in such companies? Have I considered use of reserve monies in ways more appropriate to Friends?

—Could I, by voluntary curtailment of the buying of luxury and mass-produced items keep alive in my imagination some of the deprivation which war involves for those closer to it physically? Could this curtailment influence the commercial aspects of the U.S. economy to feel their connection with the war? Could I use the money not spent on such buying to donate to forces now marshalling to provide rehabilitation in Vietnam when the war is over? Am I aware of the implications of the taxes I pay? Is it part of my religious commitment to find some mode of refusal to pay them?

—Do I continually inform my congressmen of the insights which my religious commitment and informed judgement lend to questions of human

(Continued on next page.)

Organized Death (cont.)

need, domestically and internationally? Do I engage my friends in considering the war and military involvement? Am I willing to participate with University Friends Meeting in renewing their offer to consider asylum for those who for conscientious reasons oppose the war unlawfully?

Art Show

At PYM we delight in the creativity of Friends. This year, as in recent years, we hope to have an Art Show. Please, all of you wonderful potters, painters, sculptors, weavers, poets, seamstresses, etc., bring your works to display!

Many Friends enjoy the opportunity to buy something beautiful made by a person they love, so please title your works, put your names on them, and price them if you wish to sell them. For many of us the art show is a beautiful part of PYM, and this year with the help of other Friends, I will be taking care of your creative works. Prepare now and help make this a special show.

PAT NISKA
La Jolla

Community Forms

An international community is being put together next to a forest, close to Seattle by A Pacific Group, which grew from discussions in the 1970 Pacific Yearly Meeting. APG's principles and methods largely duplicate those of Friends. Subsistence production and internal enterprises hopefully including an alternative school, will be fostered in the new community.

At the same time an APG non-violent living center is beginning to function in a large house in Seattle, in NRG tradition. Still another community is being started by APG member family, the Sam Lightwoods, on their 120 acre homestead in south central Alaska. Membership in each is open. Contact John Affolter, 10218 147th SE, Renton, WA 98055 for details.

JOHN AFFOLTER
Eastside

The Party

The door closed, and I was set free,
Amid warped sandwiches and tepid tea.
Parties resemble life, I guess,
Anticipation, eagerness–
And end with cleaning up the mess.

VIRGINIA REPENING
San Jose

Gatherings - 1973

NORTH PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
JULY 19 – JULY 22
ST. MARTIN'S COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING
JULY 30 – AUGUST 4
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
MORAGA, CALIFORNIA

YOUNG FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA
AUGUST 15 – SEPTEMBER 2
COLFAX INTERFAITH CENTER
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